

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02  
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R 130810Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8319  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1043

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINS PDEV PBOR MOPS MILI VM LA  
SUBJECT: SRV ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN LAOS

REF: A 76 VIENTIANE 1194, B VIENTIANE 0934

SUMMARY: CAMBODIAN MAN RELEASED FROM LPDR RE-EDUCATION  
CAMP IN ATTOPEU MARCH 1977 TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE VIET-  
NAMESE HAD: ASSUMED CONTROL OF SOME LAO TERRITORY IN  
SOUTHEASTERN LAOS; PLACED AMPHIBIOUS LANDING CRAFT  
IN THE MEKONG RIVER NEAR PAKSE; BUILT A PATROL DEPOT  
AT BAN PHONE IN SARAVAN PROVINCE; AND THAT THE VIET-  
NAMESE ARE RESENTED BY LOCAL LAO IN ATTOPEU.

1. WHEN SOURCE CROSSED LAO/SRV FRONTIER IN FEBRUARY  
1976 NEAR BAN HET (YB6828) HE SAW NEWLY ESTABLISHED  
VIETNAMESE MILITARY POSTS ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS IN-  
SIDE LAO TERRITORY. HE SPOKE TO SEVERAL VILLAGERS IN  
THAT REGION WHO TOLD HIM THAT SRV TROOPS HAD FORCED  
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SOME VILLAGERS LIVING IN LAOS TO MOVE ACROSS THE  
BORDER INTO VIETNAM. LIKEWISE, THE SRV MOVED VIET-  
NAMESE VILLAGERS INTO THE FORMER LAO TERRITORY AND  
REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHED AN SRV ADMINISTRATION THERE.  
SOURCE SAID THAT THE LAO THEUNG VILLAGERS IN THE  
REGION NOW UNDER SRV ADMINISTRATION WERE CONTENT WITH  
THE CHANGE BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES OFFERED

MORE PUBLIC SERVICES.

2. SOURCE SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD BY A PAKSE RESIDENT VISITING VIENTIANE THAT SRV TROOPS HAD PLACED ABOUT EIGHT AMPHIBIOUS LANDING CRAFT IN THE MEKONG RIVER NEAR KPAKSE DURING JUNE 1977.

3. SOURCE SAID THAT WHEN HE LEFT ATTOPEU FOR VIENTIANE IN APRIL 1977 SOME VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE LOCATED IN THE CHAMPASSAK AND ATTOPEU REGIONS. SOURCE SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO SRV ADVISORS WORKING WITH THE ATTOPEU PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF POPULAR RESENTMENT TOWARDS VIETNAMESE ARISING FROM TRADITIONAL ANOMOSITIES AND FROM THE BRUTAL VIETNAMESE SACKING OF PAK SONG IN THE EARLY 1970'S. HE SAID THAT THE LAO IN ATTOPEU ALSO RESENTED SRV EXPLOITATION OF LAO MINERAL WEALTH, PARTICULARLY VIETNAMESE MINING AND PANNING FOR GOLD. SOURCE SAID HE SAW A PETROL DEPOT A FEW KILOMETERS FROM BAN PHONE IN SARAVAN PROVINCE WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS BUILT BY THE SRV.

4. COMMENT: BEFORE ASSUMING POWER IN 1975 THE PATHET LAO REFERRED TO THE SOUTHEASTERN MOST CORNER OF LAOS AS "TAWEN OCCK (OR EASTERN) PROVINCE", BUT THE LPDR SEEMED TO DROP REFERENCES TO "TAWEN OCCK" PROVINCE  
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WHEN IT DESIGNATED THE THIRTEEN PROVINCES REPORTED REF A. REF B NOTED A BOUNDARY CHANGE IN THE MAP NEWLY PUBLISHED BY THE SRV THAT ADDED A PORTION OF WHAT WAS SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE OF LAOS TO BINH TRI THIEN PROVINCE OF VIETNAM. IN OCTOBER, 1976, A KNOWLEDGABLE UNHCR OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIGH RANKING LPDR OFFICIALS WERE ANGRY AT THE SRV FOR UNILATERALLY ANNEXING BORDER REGIONS OF LAOS. THE LPDR SEEMS EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO BLOCK THE SEIZURE OF LAO TERRITORY BY THE SRV.  
MCWILLIAMS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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